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PROGRESS IN THE KARELO-FINNISH TIMBER INDUSTRY

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources]

Although the Karelo-Finnish SSR possesses huge pine forests, it does not have an industry for chipping forests. This means that trees are cut down without utilizing the valuable pitch materials, and that thousands of tons of naval stores, which are indispensable for the national economy, are wasted.

The republic's forest and lumber industry organizations lack sufficient manpower. However, this cannot justify wastage of large quantities of very valuable wood pulp products.

Naval stores consist of oleoresin deposited by pine trees during summer months. The soft resin flowing from the chipped pine trees is composed of rosin and turpentine which are used in the paper, varnish and paint, soap and other industries.

Experience has shown that the pines of Karelo-Finnish SSR are rich in resin. During one season, 1,000 pines of average diameter (about 35 centimeters), using the new methods worked out by I. V. Vysotskiy, yield 1,000 to 1,500 kilograms of soft resin.(1)

At first, it was difficult to determine the labor productivity of individual workers during the chipping operation, but now the work of I. V. Vysotskiy makes it possible to determine labor productivity and to introduce norms for extracting soft resin.(2)

The chipping method set forth by Vysotskiy makes it possible to extract the maximum amount of oleoresin from trees which have been chipped for not more than 3 years. The Vysotskiy method will increase soft resin output 66 percent above that for the usual method, and for this reason should be adopted throughout the republic.(1, 3)

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All preparatory work for chipping should be done before the beginning of May. The location for the work and the quantities of work to be done should also be decided beforehand. The season for chipping operations begins from the 10th to the 20th of June. Scientific workers of the Academy of Sciences USSR should aid in organizing and conducting chipping work.(1)

G. N. Shkol'nikov, Minister of Timber and Paper Industry, Karelo-Finnish SSR, reports that the wood-working industry enterprises of the republic have tripled their gross output, and that furniture manufacture has increased 10.5 times during the years of the postwar Five-Year Plan. During the last 4 years, the number of permanent workers in the wood industry has grown 4 times. At present, almost half of all these workers are highly skilled.

The 1949 wood products plan was met 82.6 percent, the 1949 timber haulage plan 78.6 percent. Wood industry enterprises failed to deliver to the government 1,285,000 cubic meters of timber, 78,000 cubic meters of lumber, 53,000 pairs of skis, and 990,000 rubles worth of furniture.(4)

Some lumber mills such as the Belomorsk Lumber Mill, one of the largest in the Karelo-Finnish Republic, failed to fulfill the plan for the first half of 1950. The main reason was a lack of raw material. During the second quarter, the Belomorsk mill was to have received 45,000 cubic meters of timber, but actually received only 18,300 cubic meters. Sixty percent of the timber received was second grade.(5)

SOURCES

1. Petrozavodsk, Leninskoye Znamya, 21 Mar 50
2. Moscow, Lesnoye Khozyaystvo, No 5, 1949
3. Moscow, Lesnaya Promyshlennost', No 3, 1948
4. Petrozavodsk, Leninskoye Znamya, 19 Jul 50
5. Petrozavodsk, Leninskoye Znamya, 21 Jul 50

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